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Ready for a sci-fi adventure?
The much-awaited trailer for 'Mickey 17', directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Bong Joon-ho, has been released, giving fans a hint at the thrilling sci-fi adventure

BangaloreMirror
Saturday, January 25, 2025
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INTERVIEW KHUSHI KAPOOR, ACTOR

'Need to carve my own path'

Khushi Kapoor is much more than her legendary lineage. While her debut film, 'The Archies,' didn't meet expectations, she's now gearing up for her sophomore release, 'Loveyapa,' produced by Madhu Mantena and Shristi Behl, and directed by Advait Chandan. As excitement builds, Khushi shares her thoughts on her journey so far, her family's influence, and what lies ahead.

'Loveyapa' is your sophomore venture. Did you consciously look for a project different from 'The Archies'?
I don't think I made a conscious effort to look for a different type of project, but I was excited to be a part of something like 'Loveyapa.' My character, Baani, is so different from me, whereas Betty in 'The Archies' was much closer to my personality. I was thrilled to play someone so different from who I am in real life.

What was your first reaction when you heard the script?
I absolutely loved the original film, Love Today. After meeting Advait and hearing the first narration, I didn't even have to think twice—it was an instant yes for me. The writing was fantastic, and Advait and I were very much in sync about the film and the vision for Baani, while still preserving the essence of the original.

Carrying Sridevi Ji's legacy forward—does that feel like a heavy burden?
I understand why people want to compare us, but I believe I need to carve my own path and find my footing without getting caught up in all the noise. My mother's legacy is unmatched, and I wouldn't even try to reach that level. All I can do is my best and hope that people appreciate my work.

Do you take advice from your dad, Boney Kapoor, and your sister, Janhvi Kapoor, on your projects?
Oh, absolutely! I don't think I could make any decision without Dad and Janhvi's approval or blessing. Of course, I have my own opinions, but it puts me at ease to know we're on the same page.

Janhvi mentioned she's very protective of you. What's your bond like?
She really is my biggest supporter and cheerleader. I go to her for everything. She's been my best friend all my life, and I constantly look up to her. She's always guiding me because she's been through similar experiences, and she genuinely wants the best for me.

What's next for you?
Khushi Kapoor: I have another project coming out very soon this year, which I'm super excited about! There are also some other projects in the pipeline, but it's too early to share details.

Lastly, which of your mother's film is closest to your heart?
Sadma holds a very special place in my heart.

—Subhash K Jha, ETimes

Out-and-out entertainer set in a dense forest

FOREST
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Chandramohan
- **ACTORS** Anish Tejeshwar, Gurunandan, Chikkanna, Archana Kottige, Rangayana Raghu
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 145 minutes

Director Chandramohan, known for Kannada movies Bombay Mitai, Brahmachari, and Double Engine, has succeeded in offering an out-and-out entertainer with a proper mix of all elements such as horror, comedy, and romance in the movie Forest. The director may have been inspired by the story of a well-known sandalwood smuggler who is no more. Crisp screenplay, especially in the post-intermission session, keeps the film engaging.

The movie begins with the movement of police force in a forest on Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border. The director introduces a flashback scene to explain what had happened six days ago. The next scene opens in a hotel where Kumar (Chikkanna), a money lender suffering from hearing loss, is trying to win Sandhya's (Sharanya Shetty) heart. Sandhya is in love with Suresha (Anish Tejeshwar) who has a property dispute with his cousin Satisha (Gurunandan). Meenakshi (Archana Kottige), who is looking after her grandfather Mani (Avinash), who has been in a coma for 20 years. Mani is a staunch follower of a late sandalwood smuggler. Meenakshi seeks Suresh's help to solve the property dispute with Satisha. Later they decide to approach Gopalaswamy (Rangayana Raghu), a black magician who exploits gullible villagers. They gather at Meenakshi's house to solve the dispute. Meanwhile, Mani gains consciousness and reveals the secret of a treasure in the forest and passes away instantly. All those present, who are in dire need of money, join hands with Kumar, who pretends to know about their plan, to begin the treasure hunt. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not they succeed in their mission.

All the actors have acted well. This movie has helped Gurunandan, known for the movie First Rank Raju, to come out of Raju's shadow. Archana Kottige is at her best and the film proves a platform for her to showcase her skills. Rangayana Raghu, as a black magician, has acted well. His dialogue delivery and his tryst with tough Archana Kottige are very good. Chikkanna provides comedy. Suraj Pops, who plays Beera, deserves a pat on the back.

Ravi Kumar's cinematography transports the audiences to a dense forest. The movie ends with an indication of a sequel.

All in all, Forest is worth a watch.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Much action, more romance

ROYAL
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Dinakar Thoogudeepa
- **ACTORS** Viraat, Sanjana Anand, Achyuth Kumar, Chaya Singh, Raghu Mukherjee, Ranayana Raghu
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 146 minutes

Director Dinakar Thoogudeepa makes a comeback to Sandalwood after a gap of six years with a film that has a tight script with all elements in right proportions.

The movie begins with Krishna (Viraat) being taken away by police in a vehicle. The next scene shows how Krishna swindles people of money. Then we see how Krishna meets Sanjana (Sanjana Anand), a motivational speaker who comes to Goa with her friends. Initially, Sanjana hates Krishna but later falls in love with him. She comes to know that Krishna is a cheat. At this juncture, the director shows a police officer (Gopala Krishna Deshpande) taking Krishna to a bungalow belonging to Sudarshan (Achyuth Kumar), a businessman. Murthy (Raghu Bhat), the trusted personal assistant of Sudarshan, asks Krishna to take over the responsibility to run his father's business. Meanwhile, a businessman (Raghu Mukherjee) wants to take over Sudarshan's business empire. What happens to Krishna is what the movie Royal is all about.

Viraat, who debuted as a hero with Kannada movie Kiss, has showcased his acting skills. As a shrewd cheat who wants to lead life royally rather than loyally, he is convincing. He is good in action scenes and dance sequences. Sanjana Anand has no scope in this movie except appearing in a few scenes. Achyuth Kumar and Chaya Singh have acted well. Raghu Mukherjee, as a vicious villain, is good.

Charan Raj's music is good.

The movie is worth a watch for pure entertainment.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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CITY / PAGE 3

ACCIDENTAL EXTORTION

Importance of dashboard cameras stressed after cases of people faking accidents to extract money come to fore

CITY / PAGE 4

WASTED EFFORT

Plan to set up waste management plants in city's outskirts hits roadblock, with no bidders participating in tender process

Wave of thefts in outskirts, burglaries in city put focus on security measures at residential areas, apartment complexes in city already on edge after high-profile robbery attempt in Mumbai

BURGLAR ALARM

Police ask citizens to stay vigilant, report any suspicious activity immediately

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Bengaluru's outskirts are reeling under a wave of theft, with 20 houses targeted within 15 days in five layouts under the Avalahalli police station. A masked gang orchestrated these robberies, leaving residents alarmed and demanding action. This comes at a time when the recent attack on actor Saif Ali Khan during a robbery attempt at his Mumbai home has already put citizens on the edge in terms of security.

CCTV footage from the series of robberies in the outskirts reveals the gang's precise planning: Scouting neighbourhoods in cars during the day and striking at around 1 am under the cover of darkness. Disguised in masks and dark clothing, they break locked gates and steal gold jewelry, cash worth lakhs, and other valuables. Their boldness is evident, with reports of the gang returning to the same area to rob again within hours.

Despite intensified police efforts and multiple cases registered, the robberies persist, fueling frustration among locals about the lack of effective deterrence. Residents are calling for increased patrolling, stricter security measures, and swift action to apprehend the culprits.

Police officials, meanwhile have urge residents to stay vigilant, install security systems, and report suspicious activities immediately.

In high-end apartments

Security in high-end apartment complexes across Bengaluru had come under scrutiny soon after the attack on Khan. The incident raised questions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> **"Apartment complexes are equipped with robust security measures. The Karnataka Public Safety Act allows police to access CCTV footage when required. We maintain regular night patrols and encourage residents to inform us when they are out of town**
>
> —Saidulu Adawat, DCP North Division

PRISON INMATES CAN TAKE A CALL

Jammers, multi-level checks have failed to prevent use of mobile phones in Central Prison, but residents of areas nearby suffer

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Despite the installation of advanced jammers and heightened security, prisoners at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison continue to make phone calls. During a recent surprise inspection, officials recovered three mobile phones, two from the pocket of a 28-year-old undertrial and one abandoned outside room 6 in the convict barrack. Officials have demanded a detailed investigation into how the devices were smuggled in, and two FIRs have been registered at the Parappana Agrahara police station regarding the incidents.

The undertrial, identified as Mohammed Irfan, was caught during a surprise inspection in barrack number 8 with two mobile phones and a SIM card concealed in his pocket. Irfan has been booked under

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Magnificent prints

Bengaluru Print Exchange International (BPEI) 2024 show features 64 printmakers across the globe (29 international & 35 national). This event is held every year to celebrate the finesse and diversity of printmaking as an art form. **Where: Lavaru Art Gallery, Nisarga Layout, Bannerghatta Jigani Road; When: Until February 5, 10 am to 6 pm**

02 Colourful patterns

Kaleidoscope: A photography exhibition by Sumesh Senan. This exhibit brings together a captivating array of images, each offering a unique perspective, much like the ever-changing patterns of a kaleidoscope. **Where: Alliance Francaise; When: Until February 2**

03 Art exhibit

Gallery Sumukha presents 'Southern Stars' by Clare Arni. This exhibit is taken from the collection of Clare Arni. Preview on January 25, from 5:30 pm to 8 pm. **Where: Gallery Sumukha, Wilson Garden; When: On view until March 1, 10:30 am to 6 pm**

Snake rescuers cry for justice

Forest Environment & Wildlife Society members request government, BBMP to sanction suitable pay, compensation, appoint more snake rescuers in state

I Y Maheswara Reddy
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The members of the Forest Environment and Wildlife Conservation Society (FEWCS) staged a protest at Freedom Park on Friday in support of their long-pending demands. They demand the government, including Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), to appoint snake rescuers and sanction a suitable amount of honorarium to them.

According to FEWCS members, there are around 2,000 snake rescuers, most of them from economically weaker families and minority communities, across the state, but only 600 of them are active due to a lack of support and encouragement from the government. "We have to bear the transport cost and look after our families. We cannot afford to do other jobs as we get phone calls to rescue snakes. On average, we get five to six phone calls per day from November to March," a snake rescuer told Bangalore Mirror on the condition of anonymity.

These rescuers have been demanding the government appoint snake rescuers on an honorarium basis. "Bengaluru needs around 30 snake rescuers, but only seven snake rescuers are working for an honorarium of Rs 15,000 per month. Other snake rescuers are working out of passion and concern towards wildlife. We have been requesting the authorities concerned to meet our demands but in vain," said Shivaraju, a snake rescuer who participated in the protest after attending a rescue call at Kempegowda Bus Station on Friday morning.

They further want the government to provide insurance apart from honorarium for the snake rescuers and compensation to those rescuers who died of snake bites while catching snakes that entered dwellings or offices. The other demand is establishing a welfare fund for the benefit of snake rescuers' families.

Forest Environment and Wildlife Conservation Society members staged a protest at Freedom Park on Friday

> **"Bengaluru needs around 30 snake rescuers, but only 7 are working for ₹15,000/month**
> – Shivaraju, snake rescuer

Vasuki, a wildlife conservationist who also coordinates with the BBMP authorities and snake rescuers in Bengaluru, told BM that the BBMP authorities proposed to appoint 11 snake rescuers for Bengaluru a few years ago. But the file containing the names of the four snake rescuers was missing, he alleged. "I am one among the four rescuers who were supposed to get appointed by the BBMP, but the file was found missing. Upon approaching the BBMP Forest Department officials, they assured us they would look into the matter, but nothing has been done to date," he said. It is to be noted that a delegation of FEWCS members led by former minister and actor Anant Nag submitted a memorandum to Minister for Forest and Ecology Eshwar Khandre on October 18, 2024, requesting that the minister consider their long-pending demands, but nothing has been done to date.

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Extortionists hit the road

Cases of miscreants creating fake accident and ruckus scenarios to scare motorists into giving them money emerge again

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Several instances of deliberate accidents reported

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A disturbing trend has resurfaced in the city, with unsuspecting individuals falling victim to well-orchestrated extortion schemes. These scams, though not new, have recently gained attention due to the audacity and alarming frequency. The latest incidents have been captured on dash cameras, have spread across social media platforms, sparking concern.

The scam is simple: A person deliberately steps in front of a moving vehicle, creating the illusion of an accident. As the driver stops, perhaps shaken and confused, two individuals on a motorcycle—likely accomplices—arrive at the scene. They immediately accuse the driver of reckless driving, often resorting to verbal abuse, intimidation, and threats of legal action or snatches chains when you go and check. Their aim is clear: extort money from the driver in exchange for resolving the matter amicably without involving the authorities.

A particularly striking incident occurred in Whitefield, where a couple driving home found themselves caught in a similar trap. A man suddenly darted in front of their car, and within moments, two men on a bike pulled up, aggressively demanding compensation. The situation was tense, but the couple remained calm. The entire incident was recorded by their car's dash camera. As soon as suspects realised that a video was being captured, the extortionists vanished, no longer willing to risk exposure.

This incident is not an isolated one. A post on the social media platform X described an incident where children were reportedly used as pawns in these extortion schemes.

1 person steps in front of a moving vehicle, creating the illusion of an accident. As the driver stops, aides of the first person arrive at the scene and start resorting to intimidation

Another user stated, "This has been happening for time immemorial. They even use kids to do this," highlighting the devious nature of the offenders.

Not extortion, but dangerous

Even more alarming is the rise of similar tactics on highways. A viral dashcam video from the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway captured an incident where a man, armed with a 10-foot-long wooden pole, suddenly dropped it in front of speeding vehicles. The pole was placed in the fast lane, presumably to cause a crash and steal valuables from the victims. The quick reflexes of the driver prevented what could have been a devastating accident.

Bidadi police, who investigated the incident, however, revealed that the man had been seen sneaking through an under-construction site near the highway before he dropped the log in the path of the vehicle. The police dismissed the notion of a robbery attempt, but confirmed that the act was extremely dangerous and could have resulted in serious accidents or fatalities.

Woman found murdered near Kalkere Lake

A 28-year-old woman was found sexually assaulted and murdered near Kalkere Lake on Friday under Ramamurthy Nagar police station limits.

According to the police, the victim, a house help, who is reportedly from Bangladesh, was staying with her 34-year-old husband in Bengaluru for the last six years. Police were alerted by the victim's husband, who came to check after his wife did not return home/ Preliminary investigations revealed that the woman may have had intercourse with someone known to her before a dispute broke out. The argument escalated, leading the accused to strangle her to death using her veil. Police said she also had an injury on her face that could have been caused by a stone. **BMB**

Man follows woman, flashes; arrested

The Jayanagar Police have arrested a man for allegedly sexually harassing a woman by exposing himself on the pretext of asking for directions. The incident occurred on January 17, around 6.15 am near the Jayanagar 3rd Block Bus Stand.

According to the complaint, the victim was walking alone when the accused followed her and misbehaved with her. The same individual had reportedly harassed her a week earlier by repeatedly asking for the location of a bank. Based on the complaint, police acted promptly and apprehended the accused. A case has been registered. **-BMB**

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Zero bids for city's ₹669-cr project to manage waste

Bengaluru's plan for processing units stalls as firms skip tenders; officials aim to simplify terms and reissue tenders

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B'luru generates 6,115 metric tonnes of waste daily, but only a small portion is processed, with half ending in landfills

A major initiative to establish comprehensive waste management plants in Bengaluru's outskirts has hit a roadblock, with no bidders participating in the tender process. The project, aimed at providing a long-term solution to the city's growing garbage woes, proposed setting up waste management units across four directions on 100-acre plots each.

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Company (BSWML), with state government approval, had invited global tenders on November 7, 2024, under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The final date for bid submission was January 23, 2025, but no agencies came forward to participate. Despite participation from local and international firms in the preliminary bid meetings, not a single bidder submitted tenders for any of the four packages. Sources suggest that stringent contract conditions discouraged agencies from applying.

Current scenario

Bengaluru generates around 6,115 metric tonnes of waste daily, but only a fraction is scientifically processed. Half of the waste ends up in landfills, with existing BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) plants failing to operate at full capacity. The seven functional units, which have a combined capacity of 1,620 tonnes, currently process only 1,160 tonnes. An official said, "To address this issue, the government had planned four integrated waste management units to handle waste collection, processing, and disposal for the next 30 years. The proposed cost included ₹2,343 per tonne for waste collection and transport, and ₹655 per tonne for waste processing and disposal, totalling an annual estimate of ₹669 crore."

> **"To move forward, fresh tenders will be issued. Efforts are underway to simplify stringent conditions that previously dettered bidders** – Official

The identified locations for the proposed waste management units span across Bengaluru's outskirts. In North Bengaluru, the defunct Terrafirma waste plant in Gundalahalli village, Doddaballapur taluk, is set to be repurposed to manage waste from the Yelahanka and Dasarahalli zones. For West Bengaluru, approximately 100 acres in Harohalli under the KIADB (Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board) jurisdiction have been earmarked to handle waste from the Rajarajeshwarinagar and West zones. Similarly, in East Bengaluru, 100 acres in Malur, Kolar district, have been designated for processing waste from the East and Mahadevapura zones. In South Bengaluru, 100 acres in Gollahalli, Bengaluru South taluk, reclaimed from NICE, will cater to waste generated in the South and Bommanahalli zones. "To move forward, fresh tenders will be issued. Efforts are underway to simplify the stringent conditions that previously deterred bidders. We will review and ease the contract terms to attract more interest. With mounting waste and insufficient processing capacity, authorities are under pressure to resolve the city's garbage crisis swiftly and sustainably," an official added.

Kempegowda Layout delays continue despite multiple assurances

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File photo of Kempegowda Layout

The Petition Committee of the Legislative Assembly has sought BDA (Bangalore Development Authority) Commissioner N Jayaram on January 30 to discuss the progress or lack thereof, on the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL). The committee held its meeting on Thursday but the BDA Commissioner had requested exemption as he was supposed to appear before the Supreme Court. The BDA Commissioner directed Engineer-Member HR Shantharajanna to attend the meeting. Deputy Secretary Urban Development Department Prashanth appeared before the committee.

Expressing concern over the delay in the completion of developmental works at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar, a member of the Petition Committee of the Legislative Assembly said many developmental works are incomplete at the layout.

"In 2023, former BDA Commissioner G Kumar Naik, while appearing before the Petition Committee of the Legislative Assembly, assured to complete all the pending works before November 2023. The BDA Commissioner appeared before the committee in October 2023 and sought 12 months to complete the pending works. We told him to take 14 months to complete the pending works but many developmental works are still pending at the layout," said Suresh Kumar.

He said the committee has been monitoring the developmental works at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout for the last four years. "Till now, four Commissioners of BDA appeared before the committee. All of them have promised to complete the developmental works," he said, adding that the committee members visited the layout twice. It is claimed that site allottees are unable to construct homes due to the lack of a road network, drainage, electricity, and drinking water, while those who have built their homes are facing significant difficulties. MLA CN Balakrishna suggested that the committee make a spot inspection for an assessment. MLA Somashekar supported the view and said they would decide after hearing out the commissioner at the next sitting.

> **"Many developmental works are still pending at the layout** – S Suresh K, MLA

The NPKL Open Forum has approached the committee complaining that the BDA had promised to complete the project by September 7, 2023. The committee, however, extended the deadline by 14 months and the same ended in November 2024 with substantial work still left unattended.

The Forum has also raised concerns about authorities collecting Rs 31,000 for road-cutting charges related to the underground drainage system, despite selling sites at higher prices with promises of basic amenities within the stipulated time. However, the authorities have not made sincere efforts to complete the pending work on the layout.

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Repair fails

Doddakallasandra

The roads near Doddakallasandra Metro Station, close to Mantri Serenity Apartments, are riddled with potholes. Despite recent repairs, the condition has worsened.

Maintenance lags

Lalbagh

The Glass House area in Lalbagh needs better upkeep. Despite a ₹50 entry fee, the cleanliness is disappointing.

Overflow issues

Marathahalli

Sewage frequently overflows near Deepa Nursing Home, Marathahalli, with untreated water flowing into Rajakaluve due to blockages.

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File response within 4 weeks: SC notice to Darshan, others

The Supreme Court on Friday requested responses from Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, Pavithra Gowda and five others in connection with the appeal petition filed by the state government challenging an order that granted bail in connection with a sensational fan murder case.

The bench comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan issued a notice seeking responses from seven accused in the case, including Darshan and Pavithra Gowda. The court has directed them to file a response within four weeks. Siddarth Luthra, the counsel for Darshan, argued that the HC has completely "whitewashed" the entire case.

Single-judge Justice S Vishwajith Shetty stated that the prosecution had not provided adequate arrest grounds to the accused. The HC observed that prosecutors delayed serving arrest grounds and provided identical grounds for all accused instead of case-specific details. The State subsequently challenged the bail order in the SC. The appeal was submitted to the SC on January 6 through Krishna & Nishani Law Chambers. Advocate Anil C Nishani has filed the plea on behalf of the government.

Commenting on the appeal filed by the State police challenging the granting of bail to Darshan, Home Minister G Parameshwara stated that the police department has done its work. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Parameshwara said, "We have done our work. The police have submitted relevant documents and materials to the SC through the advocate." "We will see what the verdict in the SC would be over the petition by the Karnataka Police and then contemplate future action," he maintained.

Darshan being taken to Bowring Hospital in June '24

Darshan has been maintaining a low profile after obtaining bail. While granting bail, the court asked him and other accused in the case to appear before it every month. The counsel for Darshan had argued while obtaining medical bail that if the surgery was not conducted, the actor would suffer a stroke. However, to date, there is no news of surgery being conducted on Darshan after he came out of prison. The court granted regular bail to Darshan, Pavithra and five other accused individuals on December 13, 2024. **-Agencies**

'Consensual relations do not justify assault'

The High Court has declined to dismiss an attempted murder case against a police officer who is accused of assaulting a woman with whom he maintained a consensual relationship over several years. Justice M Nagaprasanna stated, "I deem it appropriate to hold that consensual acts between the accused and the victim for having a sexual relationship can never become a licence for the man to assault the lady. The case at hand projects gross misogynist brutality upon the complainant."

These observations were made whilst partially granting the petition filed by B Ashok Kumar, a Circle Inspector facing charges under Sections 376(2)(n), 368, 342, 307, 355, 323, 504 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code. The complainant, a social worker and police constable's wife, alleged that on November 11, 2021, at 7:30 pm, the petitioner took her to a hotel, forcibly engaged in sexual relations, assaulted her severely, and left her at Sagar Bus Stop at 2:45 am. She subsequently sought medical treatment and registered a complaint.

The petitioner sought case dismissal, stating their relationship was consensual from 2017 to 2022. He noted previous legal proceedings under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, where he was acquitted. The complainant contested the petition, asserting that consent was obtained through force and deception, given her husband's subordinate position as a constable to the petitioner.

The court examined all records and determined that whilst the relationship showed periods of peace and violence, the sexual acts were consensual rather than obtained through fraud or force. However, it maintained that consensual relations do not justify assault. The court partially granted the plea, removing rape charges under Section 376(2)(n) while upholding other charges. **-BMB**

Work in progress

White-topping work is going on in full force at NR Colony, Basavanagudi

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

State pollution board lagging in terms of use of funds

As per Central entity's report, K'taka has spent only 36.97% of its income

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File photo of a lake in Bengaluru

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has one of the worst report cards in the country when it comes to underutilisation of funds generated, highlights a report by the Central Pollution Control Board.

Between 2020 and 2022, the Board has utilised only 36.97% of its total income. While the annual income of KSPCB in 2020-21 was Rs 10,562.26 lakh, Rs 8,731.78 lakh was spent. In 2021-22, the Board's total income was Rs 42,989.63, the highest across all state pollution control boards in the country, only Rs 11,068.98 lakh (25.7% of the total income) was spent.

This has put KSPCB on the list of bottom five SPCBs when it comes to insufficient usage of funds. The only other state pollution control board with lesser expenditure compared with KSPCB is Maharashtra (31.14% expenditure).

Reasons for underutilisation

CPCB also specifies that the reasons mentioned by SPCBs for not utilising funds generated include prioritising expenditure of funds received from the State Government as compared to their other receipts, unpaid salary of vacant posts, funds reserved for future expenditure for purchase of land, building, and laboratory infrastructure development, pension and gratuity etc., since revenue generation from consent mechanism may vary year to year as the consents are being granted to the industries (Red, Orange, Green) for varying tenure.

The Water Act of 1974 and Air Act of 1981 specify that the funds generated by the state pollution control boards should be used to make all payments and to perform their functions under these Acts. Consent fees from the industries under the Water and Air Acts, authorisation fees under various waste management rules under the Environment Protection Act, environmental sample testing and analysis charges, interest earned on bank deposits, Environmental Compensation (EC), and funding assistance from Central government, etc., are some of the sources of funds for SPCBs.

> **"While the annual income of KSPCB in 2020-21 was Rs 10,562.26 lakh, Rs 8,731.78 lakh was spent. In 2021-22, the Board's total income was Rs 42,989.63, the highest across all state board** –From the CPCB report

Inadequate coastline monitoring

The CPCB's report also shows that Karnataka's coastline is inadequately monitored. While the coastal length of Karnataka is 280 kilometres, the state has only five monitoring stations for marine water. This equates to one station to monitor nearly 56 km of coastline and marine water in the state. This is much higher than the national average of one station for every 14 km of coastline. India's coastline measures 7,516.6 km with as many as 529 monitoring stations.

Karnataka, however, has proposed adding six more monitoring locations along the coast soon.

Lock the house, but don't throw away the key

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about the effectiveness of security measures in residential complexes, especially as Bengaluru's apartment culture continues to grow.

Last year, Bengaluru recorded 182 house break-in thefts (HBT) during the day, 764 at night, 1,394 house theft cases, and 383 instances of theft involving domestic workers. Recently a theft case was reported, where Soladevanahalli Police arrested two residents of Gutte Basaveshwar Nagar involved in multiple thefts, recovering 103 grams of gold jewellery and three stolen two-wheelers, valued at Rs 12 lakh.

The investigation began after a complaint was filed on December 21. The complainant, away in Dharmasthala on the night of December 20, returned to find the lock of his house broken and valuables, including gold, silver, and Rs15,000 in cash, missing.

Acting on informants' tips, the police apprehended two suspects on January 7, in Vinayaka Nagar with a stolen two-wheeler. During interrogation, the duo admitted to the theft and disclosed details of two other stolen bikes in Bengaluru. Further probes led to the recovery of two bikes from Andhrahalli and 79 grams of gold jewellery returned by a friend of the accused. An additional 24 grams of gold sold at a local jeweller was also seized.

DCP North Division Saidulu Adawat IPS assuaged fears. "Apartment complexes are equipped with robust security measures. Additionally, the Karnataka Public Safety Act allows police to access CCTV footage when required. We maintain regular night patrols to ensure public safety. We also encourage residents to inform us when they are out of town, so we can provide special attention during our patrols. Furthermore, we conduct weekly awareness sessions on safety and precautions in parks, schools, colleges, and other community spaces to promote a culture of vigilance," Adawat said.

What Act entails

The Karnataka Public Safety (Measures) Enforcement Act of 2017, derived from the Public Safety Act of 1978, empowers the police to utilise public surveillance systems for crime detection. It enables the government to implement measures aimed at enhancing preventive policing, reducing crime rates, and combating terrorism. The Act applies to public safety protocols in various establishments, including commercial establishments, educational institutions, hospitals, and others.

"We ensure strict security protocols in our apartment complex. For house helps, we require a government ID, take their photo, and store the details in our app. Entry is allowed only with prior resident approval. Additionally, children below 10 years are not permitted to leave the premises without a parent or guardian. To maintain safety, we have three security guards, including one woman and two men, monitoring all entries and exits. Two high-resolution cameras are dedicated to tracking visitor entries and the main gate activity. While we haven't implemented biometrics yet, many apartments are considering automatic boom barriers. We are also actively sensitising our security team to enforce these policies, especially regarding children's safety," Deepak Barolia, E-City cluster for Bangalore Apartment Federation, told BM.

With a significant portion of the city's population living in mid-range and affordable housing, security is a growing concern for many. While some areas are taking proactive measures, there are still several apartment complexes in the city with limited security infrastructure. Experts urge property managers and residents to invest in basic security upgrades, including better lighting, alarm systems, and resident awareness programmes.

Are you banking on weak security?

Concerns arise on weak security measures in banks amid rising heist cases; experts suggest implementing 3-tier security systems, with alarms, electric shock mechanisms, to deter break-ins

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The alarming frequency of bank heists in the state has raised serious concerns about the security measures in public sector banks. Questions are now being raised about the effectiveness of technology-based surveillance, including CCTV systems, in preventing such crimes.

Sources said that there have been a number of bank robberies in the State in the recent past, from the theft of 17.7 kg of gold from a State Bank of India branch in Nyamathi, Davanagere, a few months ago, to a cash heist from an ATM replenishment van in Bidar and a robbery in Mangaluru's Kotekar branch. These incidents are shaking public confidence in the safety of their deposits.

According to bank employees, the competency of security personnel employed through private agencies is also being questioned. Many of these individuals are retired or nearing retirement age, lacking the skills or courage to effectively use weapons provided to them. Previously, retired military personnel equipped with licensed firearms were deployed for bank security, but outsourcing has now replaced this system. To cut costs, a few banks have compromised on robust security, leading to significant losses.

A robbery attempt at an ATM in Bengaluru (file photo)

BangaloreMirror
CCTVs, armed security, patrols: Closer eye on banks
After 2 armed robberies across state, city police intensify security efforts; new guidelines issued

BM's report on Jan 20 discussed police' efforts to enhance security measures at all banks across the city

Demand for armed security

Employees said that CCTV cameras alone cannot ensure bank security. Experts suggest deploying armed security personnel at every branch. Additionally, such personnel should be recruited directly by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rather than through outsourcing agencies. An official said, "Rural bank branches often lack strong rooms, forcing staff to transfer large sums of cash to urban branches using unsafe methods like motorcycles, autorickshaws, or buses. Despite regulations mandating the use of taxis or secure vehicles for such transfers, these guidelines are frequently ignored. Furthermore, only authorised key holders are supposed to access strong rooms, but temporary staff are often allowed entry, increasing the risk of security breaches."

Secure strong rooms

A few bank branches lack robust vaults, and even those with strong rooms provide only minimal security. Retired bank official C Devaraj suggested implementing three-tier security systems, including alarms and electric shock mechanisms, to deter break-ins. He noted that current strong rooms are often easy targets, with minimal resistance to theft.

"The state of security in public sector banks is worrisome. Strong rooms need multi-layered protection, and external surveillance systems like hidden cameras in surrounding buildings should be mandatory," says Shambhulingappa, a retired banker. "With rising incidents of robberies, it's imperative for banks to prioritise security. Our branch, located near a highway with excellent connectivity, remains vulnerable. Such incidents are frightening," said a manager of a nationalised bank.

Meanwhile, police have intensified security measures to ensure public safety. The police recently conducted a series of meetings with bank managers to discuss and enhance security protocols in various districts. visiting bank branches and ATMs to offer on-site security advice. Patrolling has been intensified to prevent untoward incidents. A senior police official said, "Preventive measures are in full swing to ensure no untoward incidents occur in the district. Enhanced patrolling, continuous checkpost monitoring, and public awareness initiatives are being implemented to strengthen safety."

Govt approval a must for filming in forest areas

Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed officials to make government approval mandatory for filming in forest areas. This includes movies, documentaries, and television serials. Clear instructions are issued to the additional chief secretary of the department to draft an order requiring filmmakers to seek government permission before undertaking any shooting activities in forest zones. Currently, permits are issued by local forest officials after collecting a prescribed fee. However, this localised approach has raised concerns that could pose a threat to the ecosystem and biodiversity. Khandre stressed that a state-level approval process must be enforced for any form of filming in forest areas. **–BMB**

City may get French visa facility by 2026

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar hinted that Bengaluru may house the French consulate next year. "Officials from the French Consulate visited me and expressed their delight over Karnataka's growing investments. They're planning to set up a visa facility for France in Bengaluru by 2026. We assured them of full support from the state government," he said. On tackling microfinance troubles, DKS said, "The chief minister, revenue minister, home minister, and law minister are discussing this issue. We're examining what legal steps can be taken. A government decision will be announced soon." **–BMB**

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

FLIGHT IN SYNC

Greater flamingos getting ready to take off with a grey heron

The picture was clicked by reader **Asha NS**

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Manekshaw Parade Ground gears up for Republic Day

With 100 CCTVs, 3 baggage scanners, traffic management, security measures are arranged in venue for this year's Republic Day celebrations

Bengaluru is now gearing up for the Republic Day programmes scheduled for Sunday. The main event will be held at the Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground, Cubbon Road. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "The parade ground is being prepared for the occasion with arrangements for a shamiana, stage construction, barricading, and seating. The stage will be adorned with decorative brass accessories, and a flagpole has been erected for the flag-hoisting ceremony."

This time, the parade will feature a total of 38 contingents, including police personnel, NCC cadets, guides, scouts, Seva Dal members, and students from various schools, with approximately 1,150 participants. Cultural performances will see the participation of around 1,500 students across two programs. Additionally, the police department will be organising two events, and the military department will contribute three programs.

Security & safety measures

"Comprehensive security arrangements have been made for the Republic Day celebrations. The venue will be equipped with 100 CCTV cameras, three baggage scanners, and organised traffic management. Adequate ambulances and medical staff will be stationed to address any emergencies, and multiple hospitals in the city have been identified to reserve sufficient beds. Firefighting vehicles and personnel have also been deployed to handle any fire-related incidents," Police Commissioner B Dayananda said.

Over the past 15 days, police personnel have been stationed at the parade ground for surveillance and security. Hotels, lodges, and other accommodations in Bengaluru have been closely monitored for any suspicious activity. On Republic Day, a total of 1,051 police personnel, including 149 officers in plain clothes, 80 female personnel, and 30 camera operators, will be deployed for security. Additional forces include 10 KSRP/CAR units, two fire trucks, two ambulances, four reserve vehicles, one Quick Reaction Team (QRT), one D-SWAT team, and one RIV team. The Garuda Force will remain on standby. "To ensure safety, certain items will be strictly prohibited within the venue, including cigarettes, lighters, sharp objects, placards, black flags, coloured fluids, food items, video or still cameras, alcohol, narcotics, water bottles, cans, fireworks, and weapons. Security personnel will inspect all attendees at the gates, and cooperation is requested to maintain smooth entry," police added. — BMB

Army personnel take part in the full dress rehearsal for the parade at Manekshaw Parade Ground on Friday

DID YOU KNOW?

Padma Shri-winning Hindi author Gyan Chaturvedi's allegorical novel "Pagalkhana," which talks of societal changes in the post-liberalisation period in India, has now been translated to English. Translated by Punarvasu Joshi, "Mad House" is a social commentary attempting to do a 'Tikkun Olam' (improve the world) where everyone finds themselves in, publishers Niyogi Books said. In a way, there are two prime characters in this novel – 'The Bazaar', representing the free-market forces, and 'The Citizen', whose reincarnations are trapped in a vicious cycle of distress and fears which manifest themselves in myriad situations — PTI

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Old clip of Canadian MP speaking in Kannada shared as recent

PTI Fact Check

A video of Canadian MP Chandra Arya speaking in Kannada in the Canadian Parliament was recently shared on social media with users claiming that he spoke in his first language after filing nominations for the post of Canadian Prime Minister. However, an investigation by PTI Fact Check Desk found that the viral video dated back to May 2022, when he first spoke in Kannada mother tongue in the Canadian Parliament. The old video was shared on social media as recent with a false claim. Chandra Arya, an Indian-origin Liberal Party MP from Nepean, Ottawa, recently announced his candidacy to become the Prime Minister of Canada following Justin Trudeau's resignation.

Claim: An X (formerly Twitter) user shared a post on January 18, claiming that it showed Canadian MP Chandra Arya speaking in Kannada after filing his nominations for the Canadian PM post. The caption of the post, which has garnered 450.9k views so far, read: "Kannada in Canada!! Canadian MP Chandra Arya officially enters the race to become Canada's next Prime Minister and speaks in Kannada after filing his nomination."

Investigation: The Desk conducted a customised keyword search and found that several users had shared the same video with a similar claim. Two such posts were found. We conducted another set of customised keyword searches on Google, but did not find any report corroborating the viral claim. On further scanning the search results, we found Canadian MP Chandra Arya's X post, dated May 20, 2022, where he spoke his first language Kannada in Canadian parliament. The caption of the post read: "I spoke in my mother tongue (first language) Kannada in Canadian parliament. This beautiful language has long history and is spoken by about 50 million people. This is the first time Kannada is spoken in any parliament in the world outside of India."

Chandra Arya
@AryaCanada
I spoke in my mother tongue (first language) Kannada in Canadian parliament.
This beautiful language has long history and is spoken by about 50 million people.
This is the first time Kannada is spoken in any parliament in the world outside of India.
CHANDRA ARYA

We also found a PTI report carried by Times of India on May 20, 2022, whose headline read: "Canadian MP Chandra Arya's speech in Kannada in Parliament earns him praise". Subsequently, the Desk concluded that the viral video dates back to 2022 when Chandra Arya spoke in Kannada in the Canadian Parliament.

Conclusion: Several social media users shared a video of Canadian MP Chandra Arya, claiming that it showed him speaking in Kannada after filing nominations for the post of Canadian prime minister. In its investigation, the Desk found that a video dating back to May 2022, when Arya spoke in Kannada in the Canadian parliament, was shared on social media as recent with a false claim.

The story was originally published by PTI News (https://www.ptinews.com/fact-detail/2022-video-of-Canadian-MP-Chandra-Arya-speaking-in-Kannada-in-Canadian-Parliament-shared-on-social-media-with-false-claim/2226968) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.

Hassan horror: Remains of snakes found in drains

Across state, reptiles hunted for use in alternative treatments; snake catchers too among culprits

File photo of snake skin seized by police after a raid in the city

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In a shocking incident, residents of Holenarasipur in Hassan district discovered flayed snake skins and remains discarded in a drain on Darji Street. The brutal act has left the community alarmed, raising fears that the snakes were killed for their skin, a growing trend in the state for its demand.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the matter that highlights the growing trend of illegal snake hunting in Karnataka.

> **Some professional snake catchers exploit their expertise to engage in illegal trade, causing significant harm to wildlife, disrupting ecological balance**
>
> –Forest Dept official

Illegal snake hunting

In a recent case, Karnataka Forest officials raided a residence in Raichur and seized 110 rare reptiles, including cobras and pythons. The accused, a well-known snake catcher, admitted that snake skins were being sold to local medicine practitioners, suggesting a lucrative underground market.

In a separate case, on January 19, the forest department registered a case against three individuals who were apprehended near the front gate of the Mysuru Mahanagara Corporation's wastewater treatment plant, located along the road from Mysuru Ring Road to Hale Kesare. The accused were found in illegal possession of three cobras (Naja species), which they were displaying without any government authorisation.

Professional snake catchers also involved

Snake skins are used in traditional medicine, leather products, and ornamental items. Local medicine practitioners often believe that snake skin has healing properties, making it a prized item in alternative treatments. Additionally, snake skins are used in crafting belts, wallets, and other accessories, which fuels illegal hunting.

Forest department sources reveal that professional snake catchers, who typically help in relocating reptiles found in residential areas, are often drawn into these illicit practices.

Greed and the lure of high profits push some catchers to trap and kill snakes instead of rescuing them.

"Snake skins are often misused for their perceived medicinal properties and in the creation of ornamental products. Unfortunately, some professional snake catchers exploit their expertise to engage in illegal trade, causing significant harm to wildlife and disrupting the ecological balance," a Forest Department source said.

Beyond hunting snakes for their skins, there is also an increasing trend of collecting snake venom for illegal sale. Snake venom, sought after for its use in research and alternative medicine, commands high prices in black markets, further resulting in such unlawful activities.

Authorities are raising alarms over the exploitation of snakes for their skins, venom, and as display items, calling for stricter enforcement of wildlife protection laws to curb this growing menace. These practices not only violate the Wildlife Protection Act but also threaten biodiversity and ecological stability.

HC quashes atrocities case, calls it 'misuse' of law

The Karnataka High Court dismissed a case filed against a private bank manager under the SC ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, observing that this was another instance where the special legislation meant to safeguard marginalised communities was misused.

Justice MG Uma issued the ruling whilst considering a petition by KS Vishwa Kiran. The court stated, "It is also not clear that such an offence was committed within the public eyes. Under these circumstances, I am of the opinion that it is yet another case of misuse of the special enactment, which was enacted to safeguard the interests of the marginalised." The complainant, Ramaiah KN, alleged that the accused had sought his services as a broker to obtain document copies and paid Rs 10,000. Subsequently, when the complainant obtained the copies, he was unable to deliver them.

According to the complaint, on the day of the incident, an acquaintance named Anjinamma was waiting near Hebbal bus stop when the accused allegedly attempted to assault her and used derogatory language referring to the complainant's caste. The complainant sought legal action through the Trial Court.

Upon examining the records, the bench noted that despite the lengthy complaint, there was insufficient evidence of the accused committing the offence. The complaint merely stated that the accused used caste-based slurs and attempted to assault Anjinamma. The court observed, "Anjinamma had never chosen to file any complaint against the accused. It is also not clear as to why the complainant is holding the brief for Anjinamma..." —BMB

UNMASK: A-Fair with Theatre

A Celebration of Performing Arts in Bengaluru

Bengaluru unveiled its much awaited theatre fest "Unmask: A-Fair with Theatre" on Friday at St.John's Auditorium, Koramangala. The three-day extravaganza curated by Ventures Theatre and hosted by E- Blitz Creations and Vijay Karnataka & Bangalore Mirror kicked off with "Siachen" an act about survival at the world's highest battlefield. The theatre fest, with 300 artists, over 30 plays, and a variety of performances, celebrates the magic of theatre in all its forms.

Susanto Banerjee, Founder of Venture Theatre, Michael N Babu, Founder of E- Blitz Creations, Atul Kumar, acclaimed actor and director, R Guru Prasad, Brand head Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka, inaugurated and celebrated the fest by lighting lamps. During the inauguration, Atul Kumar said, "It's an incredible honour to welcome you to this first show happening for the first time here in Bangalore. We're thrilled to bring this event, which represents theater from different parts of our country's culture, to this amazing city. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to share this experience with all of you. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm."

SIACHEN: Premiering in Bengaluru

The highlight of the festival is the Bengaluru premiere of SIACHEN, a survival drama set on the world's highest battlefield. Directed by the acclaimed Makarand Deshpande and written by Aditya Rawal, this masterpiece delves

into the harrowing experiences of four Indian soldiers stranded on the unforgiving Siachen Glacier after a devastating blizzard.

As they grapple with isolation, frigid temperatures, and dwindling hope, the play explores profound themes of resilience, human bonds, and the delicate balance between life and death.

As the play unfolded, the audience eagerly anticipated whether the soldiers would withstand the icy wrath of "General Glacier" or succumb to despair before salvation arrived. The play beautifully described a soldier's life and how his family awaits. While another soldier described his reason for joining the army he stated that " Stupid ideas define life". While play focuses on survival, play showcased the way the brain reacts to the unusual conditions created by the fever, like the higher temperature, the fight against illness, and one's body's overall discomfort such as hulication.

SIACHEN has garnered critical acclaim, earning five META (Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards) nominations, including Best Production, Best Original Script, and Best Direction. Its gripping narrative and stellar performances made it an unmissable highlight of the festival.

UNMASK is a platform for theatre lovers -- Whether you are a seasoned theatre aficionado or a curious first-timer, this event promises to entertain, educate, and inspire.

Realtors roll out Republic Day offers

With the shifting of the airport from HAL to Devanahalli, North Bengaluru is seeing a surge in real estate developm nvestments. The rapid transformation of this o investors, and developers.

AThis Republic Day, realtors across Bengaluru are rolling out special offers to entice homebuyers. Builders and developers are capitalising on the patriotic fervour with exclusive Republic Day deals. "This Republic Day, we're providing attractive schemes to encourage first-time homebuyers. With property prices still affordable in Nelamangala, it's the perfect opportunity for buyers to invest in their dream homes," said a property developer.

Nelamangala is becoming a key affordable housing hub

Nelamangala: Rising hub of affordable property

Nelamangala, located strategically near NH-75, is rapidly transforming into a hub for affordable housing. Its proximity to key employment hubs, seamless connectivity to Bengaluru via highways and rail, and availability of spacious plots at competitive rates have made it a favourite among middle-income homebuyers. "Nelamangala offers a unique combination of affordability and connectivity. The infrastructure development here is attracting both residential and industrial investors, making it a promising location for future growth," said another property developer. With ongoing infrastructure projects, including the proposed second airport in Nelamangala, property values in the area are expected to be appreciated. "We've seen a 20% rise in inquiries for properties in Nelamangala this season. Buyers are drawn to the region's potential for long-term returns, particularly with ongoing highway upgrades and industrial expansion," said a property developer.

–Prakash VL

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Devanahalli: Ideal location for all buyers

Devanahalli, home to Kempegowda International Airport, has transformed into a thriving real estate hub offering properties to suit all segments of buyers. From luxurious villas to budget-friendly apartments and plotted developments, the area has something for everyone. The seamless connectivity to Bengaluru city via NH-44, upcoming infrastructure projects like the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) make Devanahalli a highly sought-after location. "Devanahalli is no longer just an airport destination; it's a self-sustained ecosystem," adds Anand Shetty, a property developer.

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Mysuru Road set for real estate boom with highway completion

The infrastructure on Mysuru Road has got a boost as the Mysuru-Kushalnagar National Highway project is scheduled for completion by June 2027. Mysuru Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has recently announced that the project was progressing steadily, with continuous efforts being made to ensure its timely delivery. "Spanning 92.3 kilometres, this four-lane, access-controlled highway is set to significantly reduce travel times—bringing Mysuru and Kushalnagar closer by just 1-1.5 hours and Bengaluru to Kushalnagar in 3-3.5 hours. The project, with a budget of 4,129 crore sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, has already seen substantial progress, including the completion of most land acquisitions and active coordination for forest clearances. The consistent focus on meeting milestones demonstrates the commitment to delivering this transformative infrastructure. Once completed, the highway will not only improve connectivity but also catalyse economic growth in Mysuru and Kodagu. It will attract investments, promote tourism, and enhance opportunities for local businesses."

Developers are already eyeing areas along Mysuru Road for future projects. "The highway is expected to improve accessibility to satellite towns and emerging localities, making them attractive for homebuyers and investors alike. Premium gated communities, plotted developments, and mixed-use projects are likely to thrive. The new highway will reduce travel time between Mysuru and Kushalnagar, making it a more viable route for residents, tourists, and businesses. Realtors believe this connectivity will attract investments in residential and commercial spaces," said Suresh Gowda, a developer. "The Mysuru-Kushalnagar National Highway will be a game-changer for real estate in this region. The improved connectivity will attract IT hubs, retail spaces, and residential developments. Mysuru Road is on the verge of becoming the next investment hotspot. Infrastructure is the backbone of real estate growth. With the completion of this highway, we foresee a rise in demand for housing and retail projects along Mysuru Road. It will drive significant capital appreciation in the coming years," said Meghana S, a realtor.

The new highway will cut travel time and boost investments

The highway will also contribute to the region's economic growth by boosting tourism, agro-based industries, and local businesses. The improved infrastructure will enhance social mobility, making Mysuru Road an attractive destination for professionals and families looking for quality living options. "The highway project will ease travel and make the Mysuru Road corridor a prime destination for buyers. The region is set to become a residential and commercial hub, with better access to amenities and employment centres," said Arvind Suresh, another realtor.

-Prakash VL

HEALTH TIP: If you're new to exercise or have joint concerns, starting with jogging and gradually progress to running

Screen time spent watching short videos at bedtime was found to be associated with hypertension

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GET A WHIFF OF THIS

You can train your nose – and 4 other surprising facts about your sense of smell

Would you give up your sense of smell to keep your hair? What about your phone?

A 2022 US study compared smell to other senses (sight and hearing) and personally prized commodities (including money, a pet or hair) to see what people valued more.

The researchers found smell was viewed as much less important than sight and hearing, and valued less than many commodities. For example, half the women surveyed said they'd choose to keep their hair over their sense of smell.

Smell often goes under the radar as one of the least valued senses. But it is one of the first sensory systems vertebrates developed and is linked to your mental health, memory and more.

Here are five fascinating facts about your olfactory system.

1 Smell is linked to memory and emotion

Why can the waft of fresh baking trigger joyful childhood memories? And why might a certain perfume jolt you back to a painful breakup?

Smell is directly linked to both your memory and emotions. This connection was first established by American psychologist Donald Laird in 1935 (although French novelist Marcel Proust had already made it famous in his reverie about the scent of madeleines baking.)

Odours are first captured by special olfactory nerve cells inside your nose. These cells extend upwards from the roof of your nose towards the smell-processing centre of your brain, called the olfactory bulb.

From the olfactory bulb they form a direct connection with the brain's limbic system. This includes the amygdala, where emotions are generated, and the hippocampus, where memories are created.

Other senses – such as sight and hearing – aren't directly connected to the lymbic system.

One 2004 study used functional magnetic resonance imaging to demonstrate odours trigger a much stronger emotional and memory response in the brain than a visual cue.

2 Your sense of smell constantly regenerates

You can lose your ability to smell due to injury or infection – for example during and after a COVID infection. This is known as olfactory dysfunction. In most cases it's temporary, returning to normal within a few weeks.

This is because every few months your olfactory nerve cells die and are replaced by new cells.

We're not entirely sure how this occurs, but it likely involves your nose's stem cells, the olfactory bulb and other cells in the olfactory nerves.

Other areas of your nervous system – including your brain and spinal cord – cannot regenerate and repair after an injury.

Constant regeneration may be a protective mechanism, as the olfactory nerves are vulnerable to damage caused by the external environment, including toxins (such as cigarette smoke), chemicals and pathogens (such as the flu virus).

But following a COVID infection some people might continue to experience a loss of smell. Studies suggest the virus and a long-term immune response damages the cells that allow the olfactory system to regenerate.

3 Smell is linked to mental health

Around 5% of the global population suffer from anosmia – total loss of smell. An estimated 15-20% suffer partial loss, known as hyposmia.

Given smell loss is often a primary and long-term symptom of COVID, these numbers are likely to be higher since the pandemic.

Yet in Australia, the prevalence of olfactory dysfunction remains surprisingly understudied.

Losing your sense of smell is shown to impact your personal and social relationships. For example, it can mean you miss out on shared eating experiences, or cause changes in sexual desire and behaviour.

In older people, declining ability to smell is associated with a higher risk of depression and even death, although we still don't know why.

4 Loss of smell can help identify neurodegenerative diseases

Partial or full loss of smell is often an early indicator for a range of neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Patients frequently report losing their sense of smell years before any symptoms show in body or brain function. However many people are not aware they are losing their sense of smell.

There are ways you can determine if you have smell loss and to what extent. You may be able to visit a formal smell testing centre or do a self-test at home, which assesses your ability to identify household items like coffee, wine or soap.

5 You can train your nose back into smelling

"Smell training" is emerging as a promising experimental treatment option for olfactory dysfunction. For people experiencing smell loss after COVID, it's been show to improve the ability to detect and differentiate odours.

Smell training (or "olfactory training") was first tested in 2009 in a German psychology study. It involves sniffing robust odours — such as floral, citrus, aromatic or fruity scents — at least twice a day for 10—20 seconds at a time, usually over a 3—6 month period.

Participants are asked to focus on the memory of the smell while sniffing and recall information about the odour and its intensity. This is believed to help reorganise the nerve connections in the brain, although the exact mechanism behind it is unclear.

Some studies recommend using a single set of scents, while others recommend switching to a new set of odours after a certain amount of time. However both methods show significant improvement in smelling.

This training has also been shown to alleviate depressive symptoms and improve cognitive decline both in older adults and those suffering from dementia.

Just like physiotherapy after a physical injury, olfactory training is thought to act like rehabilitation for your sense of smell. It retrains the nerves in your nose and the connections it forms within the brain, allowing you to correctly detect, process and interpret odours.

(By Lynn Nazareth, Research Scientist in Olfactory Biology, CSIRO, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Resolution time

It takes 2 months

Struggling to stay afloat on your New Year's resolution 2025 to follow healthy habits? It may take about two months to form, and almost a year to establish, according to a study on Friday.

The study, led by researchers from the University of South Australia, challenges previously assumptions that healthy habits can set in 21 days.

Lock it down

Contrary to popular belief, healthy habits take far longer than three weeks to lock down, said researcher Dr Ben Singh, from the varsity.

"Adopting healthy habits is essential for long-term well-being but forming these habits -- and breaking unhealthy ones -- can be challenging," Dr Singh said. "At the beginning of the year, many of us are setting goals and making plans for the months ahead -- things like being more active, cutting back on sugar, or making healthier food choices – but while common wisdom suggests that it takes just 21 days to form such habits, these claims are not evidence-based," he added.

For a healthy life

Following healthy habits is key to a healthier life. Many conditions, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, lung diseases and stroke, can be prevented by changing unhealthy habits or lifestyle factors.

"In our research, we've found that habit formation starts within around two months, but there is significant variability, with formation times ranging from four days to nearly a year," Singh said, urging people switching to healthier habits to "not give up at that mythical three-week mark."

The team also conducted a study on more than 2,600 people and found that certain factors like "frequency of the new activity, the timing of the practice, and whether we enjoy it or not" can influence successful habit formation.

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Surprise inspection reveals phone use in Parappana Agrahara

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Section 323 of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the Karnataka Prisons Act. Despite enhanced security measures, including multi-level checks introduced after the Darshan case, such breaches continue, highlighting persistent vulnerabilities in the prison's security system.

Mobile phones continue to ring

In November, the Central Crime Branch registered an FIR against imprisoned rowdy-sheeter Vishwanatha, alias Psycho Vishwa, for allegedly making extortion calls to a city-based logistics firm from within the prison. He demanded ₹40,000 weekly as protection money, threatening harm if his demands were unmet.

Investigations found that prisoners were using internet dongles in areas not fully covered by the jammers.

While the jammers were installed to block illegal communication, they have ironically caused network disruptions for residents living near the prison. According to sources, the jammers are 80% effective, but the remaining 20% still leaves gaps, allowing prisoners to make calls.

Residents face inconvenience

However, residents of areas nearby, have reported significant inconvenience due to poor mobile signals, even as inmates continue to find ways to bypass security. They have raised concerns over the Tower Harmonics Call Blocking System (T-HCBS), installed within the prison premises in March 2024 to prevent inmates from using mobile phones. The system has reportedly disrupted mobile network connectivity in the surrounding areas, leaving residents frustrated and demanding action.

Despite multiple protests by the affected residents, the issue remains unresolved. A multi-nodal meeting was convened involving residents, prison officials, telecom service providers (TSPs), and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to address the matter, but no concrete solution has been reached so far.

The ongoing disruptions continue to affect daily communication for residents in the area, raising concerns about the unavailability of mobile networks during emergencies. In one such incident in September, a 29-year-old man was electrocuted while attempting to switch on a water pump. Multiple calls were made to summon an ambulance, but all failed due to poor network connectivity. Tragically, the man succumbed to his injuries and was declared dead by the time he was taken to the hospital.

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I, Mohamed Rehan have changed the name of my daughter Maryam Batuul Rehan to Maryam Batul R/o 500 A2 8th cross 1st stage Hbr layout Bangalore 560043 vide affidavit dated 22-01-2025 before notary A. Idinabba Bangalore.

I Pushpa Aravind Kanade W/o Aravind C Kanade, r/o No.36/7, 2nd Cross, Kurubarahalli, Shankar Mutt, Bangalore-560086 have changed my name to Pushpa Bangari Netrakar For all purposes.

I, Philip Desmond, son of Peo Placid, aged 29 years, residing at #107, Shree Narida Apartment, Ben's Sathya Enclave, Gedalahalli, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore - 560043, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Philip Desmond to Philip Desmond Placid as per Affidavit No. IN-KA96864181777623V, dated 01.03.2023, sworn before a Notary in Karnataka. Henceforth, I shall be known as Philip Desmond Placid for all purposes.

I Balaji S/O, Hanumantha R/o No 64/3,royal Meridian Layout, Begur Main Road,hongasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka.560068 have changed my name to Balaji H.

I, AARTI SAIKIA residing at D-114 Sena Vihar, Kammanahalli Main Road, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043 hereby state that my name in driving licence mentioned as AARTI NAGARAJ and my father's name as Maj. Gen. K.NAGARAJ instead of AARTI SAIKA and Lt. Gen. K. NAGARAJ. I hereby further declare that my name is AARTI SAIKA and my Father's name is Lt. Gen. K. NAGARAJ vide affidavit dated 24-01-2025 before Notary Gangaraju B.N, Bangalore

I G Rekhamani Gurubheem D/O, Gurubheem R/o H-252, Brigade Plumeria Lifestyle, Kanakapura Main Road, Saluhunase, Udayapura Post, Bangalore-560082 have changed my name to Rekha Karader.

I, SHREEDEVI DESAI, Wife of M.J. Krishnakumar, Residing at No.7-1, Mosale, Mosale, Alur, Hassan District, Karnataka, SHREEDEVI DESAI & SHREE DEVI KRISHNAKUMAR both names one & same person only, Henceforth I shall be called as SHREEDEVI DESAI vide affidavit dated 16.01.2025 Sworn before notary: Mohammed Hussain K, Hassan

I Vijayanand Awale S/O, Rao Bapuji Awale R/o No 111, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Amco Layout, Sahakarnagar Post, Bangalore-560092 have changed my name to Vijayanand Rao Awale.

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Syndicate-ownership is ace of the race

Small owners appreciate change in scene as now purple horses from top stud farms are within their reach

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The new funda in horse racing is syndicated-ownership and that has provided a new dimension to the sport of kings. A large number of small investors from the corporate world and business establishments are forming syndicates and purchasing the bred in the purple horses from top stud farms in the country. A couple of individuals revealed the investments on horses are proving to profitable.

A good horse can be bought for Rs, 25 lakh and that effectively costs only Rs, 2.5 lakh for a member of the 10-member owners' syndicate. You now become owner of a race horse for a price less than the price of a high-end racing motorbike.

"It is fun and we love the sport. Earlier, not many people could afford to own race horses and it was only the members of the royal families, top business tycoons and the rich and famous from the real state and fashion world who called the shots in the high profile sport. The equations have changed and now following the race clubs decision to permit syndicate ownership with no cap on the number of members in a syndicate, sport lovers are readily getting into the game and this also helped the breeding industry sell the stocks at a good price," said horse trainer Rakesh. The top Mysuru trainer in his yard had a horse picked up by a 40-member syndicate for less than Rs 20 lakh and each member of `Big 40' now was a horse owner investing only Rs, 50,000.

Inset: Members of the 'Knotty' Syndicate are all smiles receiving the HPSL South India Derby Stakes in Chennai on Pongal Day

"It is fun and we love the sport. Earlier, not many people could afford to own race horses

–Rakesh, horse trainer

Most horses racing in all the premier racing centres including, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru are purchased at the annual auction sales of the stud farms in winter.

One of the leading syndicates which is enjoying big success is the eight-member `Knotty' Syndicate from Bengaluru. The Knotty group led by K Kamesh Swaroop Kumar and half-dozen others has consistently picked up good performers. Knotty Charmer last year won more than five races and Knotty Legend owned by this group has remained unbeaten from his six career starts including his victory in the Chennai Derby at Guindy on Pongal Day. A few from the `Knotty ' syndicate feature in a couple of other syndicates. Leading owner Ashok Ranpise, Kamesh and champion trainer Prasanna Kumar are three of the six in the six-member syndicate of Redefined, the favourite to win the HPSL Bangalore Derby at the Bangalore Turf Club on Republic Day. Prasanna incidentally has trained all the horses of the Knotty syndicate.

"Only a couple of big owners from the West remain single owners in this new changing pattern. Even big breeders like the Poonawallas also sell shares in the stock they retain for racing," said Swaroop Kumar pointing out that the increase in the number of buyers, particularly the small owners, has provided a shot-in-the-arm for the sport. "To win stakes of Rs one crore on a horse which has costed a member roughly about Rs 3 lakh is a fabulous investment and though we understand that this doesn't happen every day, we are passionate racing fans enjoying the sport at a affordable cost," said Kamesh, quietly confident that he along with the other five members of the Redefined syndicate, including the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC) chairman SR Sanas will lead in the winner of blue riband on Derby-Day.

K'taka govt mulls strict laws to regulate microfinance companies

The Karnataka government is contemplating bringing in stringent laws to rein in microfinance companies, state Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Friday.

With reports emerging from various parts of the state about people dying by suicide due to the "atrocities" of loan recovery agents, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has convened a meeting to address the issue, he said.

"Across the state, many people have been complaining that they are in trouble due to these microfinance companies. It has come to our notice that there are shortcomings in the existing laws," Parameshwara told reporters.

He noted that while there are provisions in the law to recover money, there are also laws to protect borrowers.

"There are several reports from our department highlighting the inadequacies in the existing laws. If stricter regulations are required, the government will introduce them," Parameshwara said.

He added that the government has instructed microfinance companies to stop harassing borrowers.

According to Parameshwara, borrowers are required to give undertakings when taking loans, but banks often make them sign multiple documents without explaining the purpose, leaving borrowers unaware of what they are agreeing to. "Microfinance companies pester people and seize properties. We need to find a legal solution to address this," he said.

He further noted that Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil has brought the issue to their attention. "The chief minister has convened a meeting to discuss the issue. We will examine weaknesses in the law and review specific cases," the home minister explained. JD(S) leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy criticised the government for failing to address the menace of microfinance companies. —PTI

'High time': SC reserves treasurer post for women lawyers in B'luru bar body

Exercising its plenary powers, the Supreme Court on Friday reserved the post of treasurer in Bengaluru advocates association for women lawyers.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh exercised its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution observing the election for the bar body was scheduled on February 2 and the nomination process was over.

"We deem it appropriate to invoke our powers under Article 142 of Constitution and direct as follows - (i) the post of treasurer shall be exclusively earmarked for women candidates," it held.

The court invoked its powers saying it was "high-time" to provide women reservation in different elected bodies of advocates and there were no express provisions in the memorandum and by-laws earmarking seats for women candidates of the association.

The bench directed the high-powered committee constituted to oversee the election and the chief returning officer for the bar body polls to extend the date for inviting nominations and if required, the election to be deferred for a few days.

However, such a decision will be at the discretion of the committee and the chief returning officer, it added.

The top court ordered the committee and the returning officer to also consider adequate representation of the women advocates in the governing council of advocates' association of Bengaluru to ensure at least 30 per cent elected members of the council were women candidates with 10 years of practice experience.

Bench directs committee constituted to oversee the election to extend date to invite nominations

The top court was hearing a plea filed by a woman lawyer who sought the implementation of directions of women reservation issued in case of Delhi High Court Bar Association, where the court last year directed for reserving seats for women lawyers including the post of treasurer.

Senior advocate Lakshmy Iyengar, appearing in the matter, requested the bench to relax the 10-year experience criteria to allow more participation from young lawyers in the governing council.

The bench acceded to the request and ordered a similar arrangement -- relaxing 10 years experience criteria -- like the one in Delhi High Court Bar Association elections case should be implemented in the Advocate Association of Bengaluru, which completed its term on December 19.

The top court further issued and sought a response from the Bengaluru advocates association.

The bench observed the Karnataka High Court had noted there was no express provisions in the memorandums and by-laws of Advocate Association Bengaluru for reserving seats for women lawyers and said the apex court, which was dealing with similar issues could pass appropriate orders.

It said there was no legal impediment in providing reservation to women lawyers. PTI

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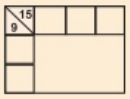
@BangaloreMirror

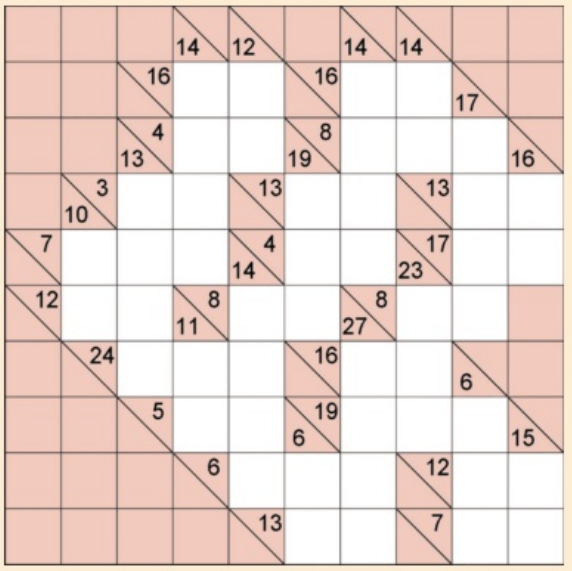
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

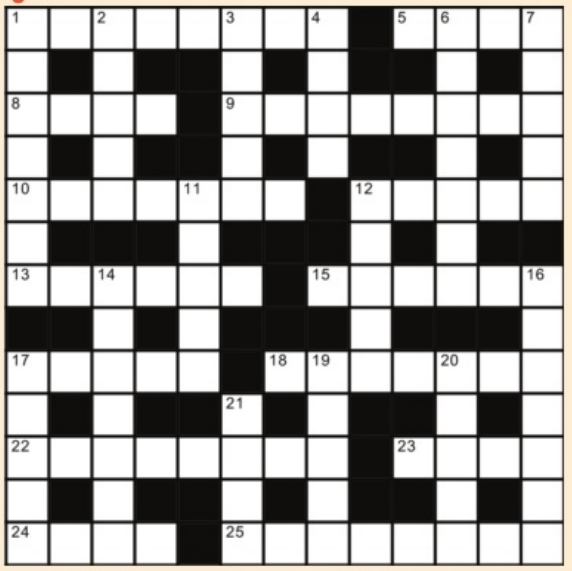


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Compassion (8)
5 Cosy (4)
8 Sibilance (4)
9 Supple, not rigid (8)
10 Big she-cat (7)
12 Adam of "Chicago Hope" (5)
13 Rejection (6)
15 Probably one of the best cricketers ever from Karnataka (6)
17 First name in country music (5)
18 Bony (7)
22 Detested thing (8)
23 Laboratory gel (4)
24 Siouan Indian (4)
25 An area for graves or tombs (8)

DOWN

1 Academic (7)
2 Botch (5)
3 Small tassels (5)
4 Belgian river (4)
6 Vladimir _____ wrote 'Lolita' (7)
7 Miller of music (5)
11 Fairy-like (5)
12 Rich tapestry or famous French town? (5)
14 Swagger, bluster (7)
16 Annihilate (7)
17 South American plain (5)
19 Flurry (5)
20 Wistful exclamation (2,3)
21 Airlines Electronic Engineering Comm. (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS S

KFDDZKK XK KYZZS ICQ KYZZSZH XM NLCT QZNIPZQ ICQ TLSSZC SEHLFTE OICP KSH. FTTNZK ICQ QZMZISK.

Linemaro

A life without you would be like a computer without an OS

Mindchow

The control of the palate is a valuable aid for the control of the mind

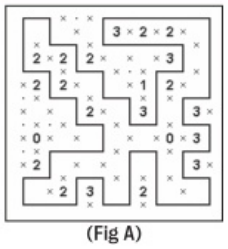
Joke of the day

What the cop said to the midget who said that someone picked his pocket: I can't believe someone would stoop so low

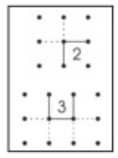
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

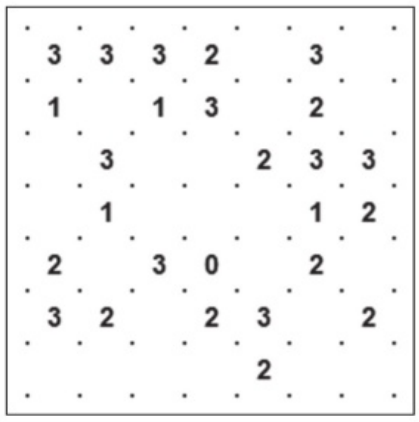


(Fig B) Not Allowed

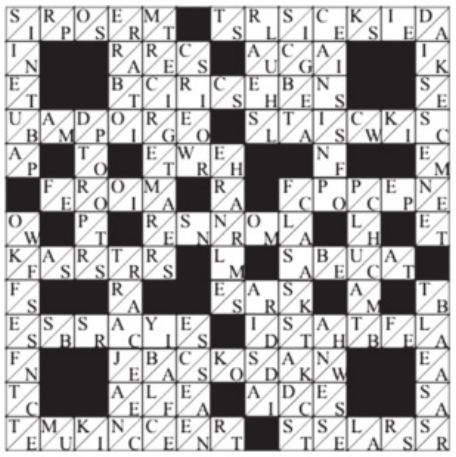
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



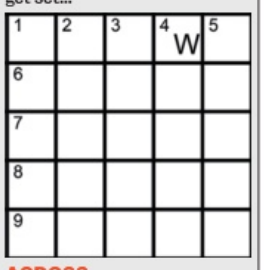
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

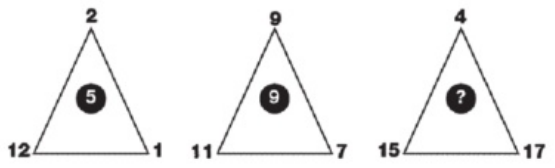
1 Law FS; 6 Dryer;
7 I noon; 8 Tents;
9 Ought

DOWN

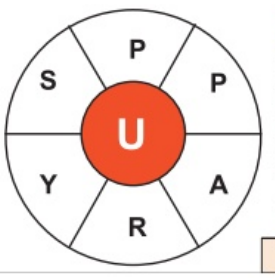
1 Forts; 2 Olent;
3 A due I; 4 Grown;
5 Thy Sn

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7		2	1		9	5	4	
					7			9
9			6					
	8		5	6		4		
	2						6	
		3		4	1		5	
					6			5
3			7					
	6	4	8		5	7		3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8

2 4 5 5

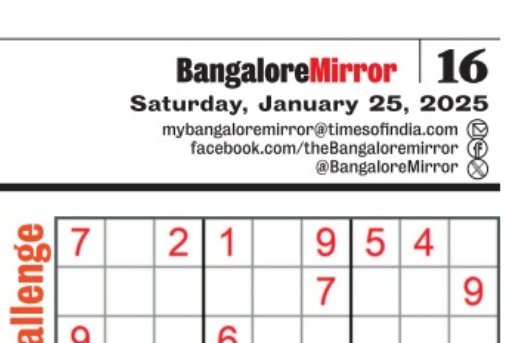
Medium = 5

6 4 4 3

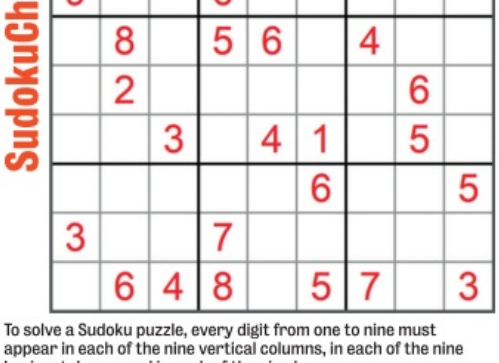
Hard = 6

2 7 8 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



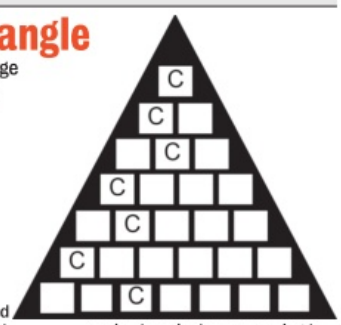
Differences: 1. Back of chair is taller. 2. Paper is added on desk. 3. Teardrop is missing. 4. Letter "A" is reversed. 5. Purse is larger. 6. Man's finger is moved.

Riddler

Which word does not belong: now, low, cow & how

Alpha triangle

1 Computer language
2 Commanding Off.
3 Author Umberto
4 Central part
5 Twenty
6 Odd jobs
7 Bullies

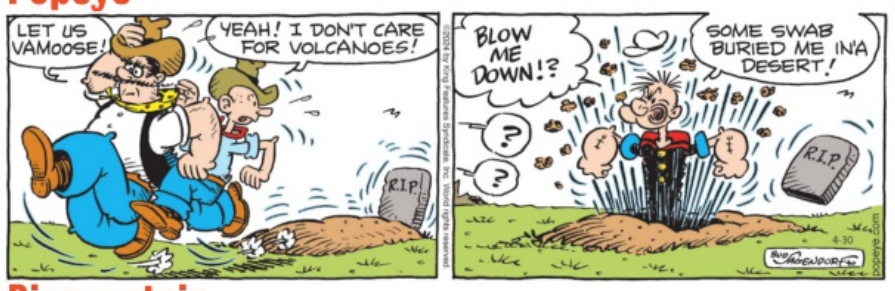


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

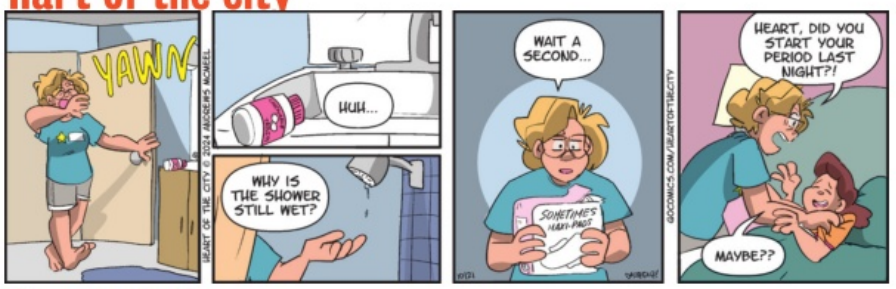
Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

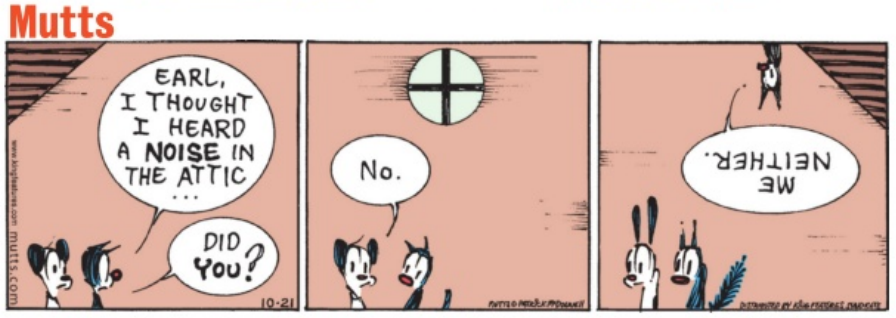
Hart of the city



Crankshaft

PIZZA MONSTER! YOU'RE A LITTLE EARLY FOR HALLOWEEN... AREN'T YOU?
I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY TO HELP YOU GUYS WITH THE HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS!
PLUS, I AM A SILENT PARTNER IN MONTONI'S, REMEMBER?
PIZZA
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO FORGET, IF YOU GET MY DRIFT.
THE COSTUME CAN BE OFF-PUTTING... I GET IT!
10-21
© 2024 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, blessings from elders will give you confidence. Trust your intuition before taking any initiative, as it will guide you toward financial gains. You may plan to visit a religious place with family members. Be mindful of your arrogance to maintain harmony in your domestic life. Students can expect good results with the support of destiny.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is mixed. Before noon, you'll feel happy and enjoy your work. However, in the afternoon, negative feelings may make you feel dull, affecting your professional life and leading to some domestic arguments. Avoid lending money to anyone, as it might not be easily recoverable. You may also analyse yourself to uncover your negativities.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you will be in a good mood from the morning. Good bonding with your spouse will fill your domestic life with harmony. Patience will help you excel professionally, and you'll experience good coordination with colleagues and business partners.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you'll succeed in controlling unnecessary expenses, boosting your bank balance. You must be cautious about your children's health. Singles may experience unexpected progress regarding marriage. Those in travel, diplomacy, or supply chain fields will do well today. Pay attention to any stomach issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your plans may not unfold as expected at work, leading to feelings of arrogance. It's advised that you avoid making important decisions regarding investments or relationships. Couples and lovebirds should avoid arguments to maintain harmony in their relationships. Students should refrain from taking shortcuts in their studies.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The moon will make you more sensitive and emotional today. It is advised that you avoid investing in real estate or other assets and be mindful of your parents' health. On the professional front, avoid being indecisive. You may expect some delays at work, but face them with patience.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you'll feel content as you manage to balance your earnings and expenses, boosting your finances. Your network will help you implement your plans, and your siblings and subordinates will be more helpful. You might also consider visiting elders or a religious place.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your energy levels will be high, making you optimistic and ready to fulfill your desires through hard work. You may also plan outings with friends and family to share your happiness. Students will see good progress in their studies.

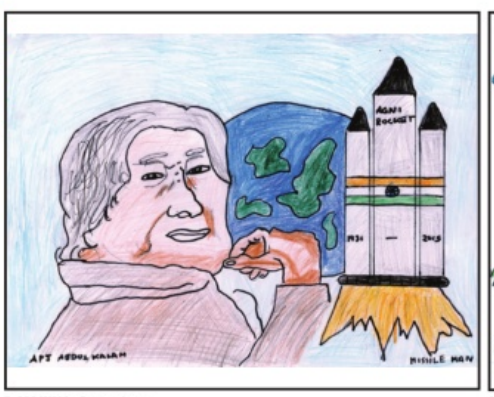
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, the day may not go well initially, with feelings of unhappiness and nervousness. However, after noon, you'll feel happier and more confident. Be cautious when making decisions about finances, profession, and studies. You might face issues regarding self-respect with your spouse, so exercise patience to prevent turning happy moments into conflicts. Lovebirds may plan short trips.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your tendency to overspend may impact your savings. You are advised to be careful when expressing yourself at work and at home. Avoid lending money and postponing decisions about real estate or assets. Be mindful of any urge to step away from your responsibilities.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, a social get-together will help you re-establish your network, bringing benefits in the near future. Those in glamour, art, and fashion will consider new ventures in their professions. Students will perform well in their studies. Lovebirds will enjoy quality moments together.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today will be a busy day with lots of work. While the workload may tire you, you'll still enjoy your work. You'll avoid spending money on unnecessary things and will be more polite with family, friends, and loved ones. You may also receive good news from family members.

KIDZONE



D MAHIKA, Bengaluru

Anika Arka, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√[1/5·4 × (5/8)·12 × (2·5 / 5)·8] =
√[1/5·4 × (5/ 2·3)·12 × (2·40 / 5·8)] =
√[1/5·4 × 5·12 / 2·36 × 2·40 /5·8] =
√ [(5·12 × 2·40) / (2·36/ 5·12]
√[2·4] = 2·2 = 4

BULL'S EYE
PAPYRUS, pupa, spur, syrup

RIDDLER
low: Low is the odd one out because it is pronounced differently from now, cow and how.

FAST FIVE

F	L	A	W	S
R	E	D	R	Y
S	T	E	N	T
O	N	I	O	N
T	O	U	G	H

STRIKE OUT

E	M	I	N	E	N	T	■	S	A	R	S
C	■	A	L	A	■	A	C	E	■	■	S
N	■	J	A	C	K	D	A	W	■	■	E
E	S	S	A	Y	S	■	I	S	A	B	E	L
F	■	■	R	■	■	S	A	S	M	■	B
F	A	S	T	S	■	L	■	A	B	U	T	■
O	■	T	■	E	N	R	O	L	■	L	■	T
F	R	O	M	■	A	■	C	O	P	E	N
P	■	O	■	E	W	E	■	N	■	■	E
U	M	P	I	R	E	■	S	T	I	C	K	S
T	■	B	I	R	C	H	E	S	■	■	S
I	■	A	R	C	■	A	C	A	■	■	I
S	P	O	R	T	■	T	R	I	C	K	E	D

QUICK

O	T	O	E	■	C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	■	■
N	■	D	■	E	■	S	■	■	E	■	■	O	■	■
A	N	A	T	H	E	M	A	■	A	G	A	R	■	■
L	■	V	■	■	A	■	P	■	H	■	■	T	■	■
L	E	A	N	N	■	O	S	S	E	O	U	S	■	■
■	■	R	■	■	I	■	■	■	R	■	■	E	■	■
R	E	B	U	F	F	■	D	R	A	V	I	D	■	■
A	■	■	R	■	■	L	■	■	O	■	■	N	■	■
O	■	D	■	T	■	R	■	O	■	N	■	■	■	■
L	I	O	N	E	S	S	A	R	K	I	N	■	■	■
H	I	S	S	■	F	L	E	X	I	B	L	E	■	■
C	■	I	■	U	■	S	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	Y	M	P	A	T	H	Y	■	S	N	U	G	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
12. In each trigle, the central value equals the average of the 3 values around the outside.

QUOTE UNCODE
Success is sweet and sweeter if long delayed and gotten through many struggles and defeats.

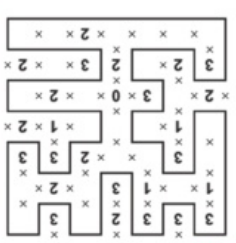
SUDOKU

2	6	4	8	1	5	7	9	3
3	5	1	7	9	2	6	8	4
8	9	7	4	3	6	1	2	5
6	7	3	2	4	1	9	5	8
4	2	5	9	7	8	3	6	1
1	8	9	5	6	3	4	7	2
9	1	8	6	5	4	2	3	7
5	4	6	3	2	7	8	1	9
7	3	2	1	8	9	5	4	6

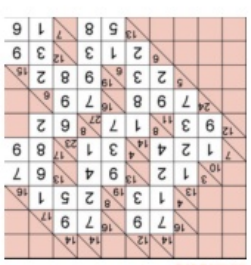
ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, CO, Eco, Core, Score, Chores, Hectors.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 – 4 + 5 + 2 = 8
Medium
3 + 4 + 4 – 6 = 5
Hard
8 – 7 + 2 + 3 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



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